

## **British Isles**

### ***United Kingdom***

The UK consists of the four countries of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. There are over 1,000 saints in the UK and there are 16 churches across England, Scotland, and Wales. There is also a group of saints meeting in Belfast and reaching out to seeking believers all over Northern Ireland. Belfast is a 90-minute drive from Dublin in the Republic of Ireland. There is a burden to raise up a lampstand in Belfast in coordination with the saints in Dublin and the rest of the UK. Please pray for the Lord's testimony in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Like so many of the other countries in Europe, the UK has been greatly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and all the saints and churches have been meeting online since March. While we miss our physical gathering together, we are very thankful that the Lord has provided a way for us to meet together online.

The pandemic has caused many people, especially seeking Christians, to consider the meaning of their human life. Many of these have requested a New Testament Recovery Version from Bibles for Europe. Along with receiving their Bibles, these seeking ones are offered the opportunity to have a Bible study online, and more than 150 saints have joined many of Amana Trust serving ones and full-time trainees to host more than 300 weekly Bible studies with these seeking ones. These Bible studies are conducted either online or via telephone. They typically last 30 minutes, but some Bible studies with seeking Christians last for even up to two hours. We can testify that there are still many hungry and seeking believers in the UK and Ireland whom the Lord desires to reach. May we be faithful to join Him in the reaching of these ones.

Another practice that has been picked up as a result of the online gatherings is the regular scheduled blending of halls or churches in the UK on the Lord's Day. For instance, recently a group of saints from Hall 6 in London blended with the saints in Dublin and the saints in Scotland. We are thankful for this wonderful way for the Lord to blend His body together.

Finally, this is a brief report on the Full-time Training in London. We have been able, by the Lord's grace and mercy and through much and thorough prayer, to have a physical training this autumn at Bower House. We have 41 trainees from 17 countries. The trainees are in good physical health, in excellent spirit, and they are very exercised. We hope next spring to also conduct the training in person, and we invite all the young people who have graduated from university to come to London to join the training in the spring. We also ask you to pray for the Full-time Training in London. Praise the Lord.

### ***Dublin, Ireland***

Dublin has had a particular role in the history of the Lord's move. In *God's Overcomers*, Brother Nee states:

In 1827 a group of people were raised up in Dublin, Ireland. Among them were men like Edward Cronin and Anthony Norris Groves. They saw that many things in the church were dead, lifeless, and formal. They began to ask the Lord to show them the church according to the biblical revelation. Through prayer and fellowship, they felt that they should rise up and meet according to the principle

of 1 Corinthians 14. As a result, they began to break bread at a brother's home. A short while later, a former Anglican minister, John Nelson Darby, began to join their meeting and to expound the Bible among them. Gradually, more and more expositors were raised up among them, such as William Kelly, C. H. Mackintosh, B. W. Newton, and J. G. Bellett. *Through reading their books, I received light to see the error of denominational organizations and to realize that there is only one Body of Christ.* The church should not be formed by human opinions but should be under the direct leading of the Holy Spirit. When we consider the present-day church organizations, we see many human traditions and opinions and little direct leading of the Holy Spirit. This is not according to God's desire. In God's will, the church should not be under man's control; it should be directed only by the Holy Spirit. All those who belong to the Lord should learn to be led by the Holy Spirit and should not follow man's direction. These are all truths discovered by the Brethren (ch. 7, section 3)

From this we can see that the roots of the modern day recovery of the church life began with the brothers at 9 Fitzwilliam Square in Dublin. Brother Nee and Brother Lee both acknowledged that we "stand on the shoulders" of the Brethren.

The present church life began with the Lord's table meeting in 2005. Since then, the church has grown to about 40 adult saints. There are an additional 22 young people from 1-year-old to 25, the majority of which are under 15. Six young adults have attended the Full-time Training. Currently, several students among us are attending Trinity College, UC Dublin, and other universities. There are about 120,000 students attending these universities.

With the approval of Brexit, Ireland now is the *only* nation in the EU with English as its primary language. This places Ireland in an important, strategic position for the carrying out of the Lord's ultimate move, as a potential destination for migrating English speakers. Our prayer is that the Lord will use this fact for the advancement of His interests in Europe.

As we began the year 2020, the church prayed:

1. That all the saints in Dublin would have new and fresh experiences of Christ, that we would take the time to absorb Him, and that we would grow in life in a normal way in 2020.
2. That we all would spend time with the Lord, persevere in prayer, and have a vital living for the church life.
3. That our second generation would grow up knowing God and His ways, loving Christ and the church, and that they would be kept for His purpose, formed into an army to fight the battle to enter the good land and bring the Lord back.
4. That 2020 would be a year of blending for our entry into the reality of the Body of Christ, especially with the saints in Belfast and Scotland.
5. That through the blending and clustering of the saints in Ireland and Scotland and our faithfulness in the gospel, the Lord's testimony would shine with impact in this region and that many local people in these nations would be gained for His kingdom.

In response, the Lord has raised an environment in which each of these matters can be realised. Along with so many others, the saints are advancing in the prayers, the burden for the second

generation, blending with the saints, and in the gospel. In particular, we are learning that these “extraordinary times require extraordinary prayers.” (Autumn 2020 ITERO, msg. 5)

In these days of Zoom meetings, the saints are also encouraged with much blending, especially with the other churches in the British Isles. Of note, the saints in Dublin are in continual fellowship with the saints in Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland (part of the UK), about a 2-hour drive from Dublin. There is much burden and prayer for a lampstand to be raised up in this important and historic city.